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Message Text

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SUBJ: JOINT US-COLOMBIAN STUDY

REF: STATE 125806

1. IN REPLY TO REFTEL THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND IS NECESSARY:

A. THE PRESENT MISSION OF THE COLNAV IS: TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER MARITIME AREAS TERRITORIAL (12-MILE LIMIT) AND JURISDICTIONAL (200-MILE LIMIT), OVER NAVIGABLE RIVERS OF THE COUNTRY AND LAND AREAS UNDER NAVAL JURISDICTION.

B. IN ADDITION TO THE OBVIOUS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH THE COLNAV HAS IN ASSURING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, SAFEGUARDING THE NATION'S LEGITIMATELY CONSTITUTED INSTITUTIONS, MAINTAINING INTERNAL ORDER AND NATIONAL INTEGRITY, AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE NATION, THE COLNAV ALSO HAS THE MORE SPECIFIC GOAL OF DEVELOPING A MARITIME FORCE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING MISSIONS DISCUSSED BELOW IN PARAGRAPH C.

C. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE IS A PROPOSAL BEFORE THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS TO PUT INTO LAW A PROVISION WHICH WOULD EXTEND COLOMBIAN'S CONFIDENTIAL

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ECONOMIC ZONE TO THE 200-MILE LIMIT. ATTACHED TO THIS PROPOSAL IS A BILL WHICH WOULD ASSIGN THE PROTECTION OF THESE WATERS TO THE COLNAV. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE PASSED AND PUT INTO EFFECT SHORTLY AFTER THEIR CONGRESS CONVENES ON 20 JULY 78. THE MISSION OF PROTECTION OF COLOMBIA'S ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD BE ENCOMPASSED IN THE COLNAV'S PRESENT MISSION AND IT IS ENVISIONED THAT THE PROPOSED STUDY WOULD DEVELOP THOSE SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVS

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NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THAT PART OF THE MISSION, FOR EXAMPLE: PROTECTION OF MINERAL AND FISHING RIGHTS; PREVENTING BY PATROLLING THE SMUGGLING OF CONTRABAND ITEMS SUCH AS DRUGS, ARMS, COFFEE, ETC; AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN LIFE AT SEA. THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THAT PART OF THEIR MISSION, WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE US COAST GUARD.

2. TO ACHIEVE THE PROPOSED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, THE COLNVA ENVISIONS OPERATING IN GROUPS; IE, ONE LARGER SHIP (CORVETTE, FRIGATE, DD TYPE) WITH 2 OR 3 PATROL GUN BOATS ATTACHED TO THE LARGER SHIPS. ALSO, THERE IS A NEED FOR MARITIME AIR PATROL BY FIXED WING AIRCRAFT THAT ARE SHORE BASED ALONG WITH HELICOPTERS THAT ARE SHIPBOARD BASED. ALL OF THIS PATROLLING EFFORT WOULD BE LINKED TO A NEW COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A TACTICAL NET FOR THE COLOMBIAN MARINE CORPS. AT PRESENT, THE GOC IS STILL NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOUR CORVETTES. THE FRIGATE AND DD/DE TYPE SHIP PRESENTLY IN THE INVENTORY CAN BE USED IN THEIR NEW MISSION, BUT ARE IN NEED OF REPAIRS AND PARTS. THE FOLLOWING HARDWARD WOULD BE NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR INVENTORY TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

A. A COMPLETELY NEW COMMUNICATIONS NET FOR BOTH ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC COASTS.

B. PATROL GUN BOATS OF 115 FT AND 120 TONS DISPLACEMENT FOR DEEP-
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WATER PATROLLING WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SMALLER PATROL GUN BOATS FOR COASTAL PATROL. THEY HAVE NONE IN THEIR INVENTORY AT THE PRESENT TIME.

C. ACQUIRE AN AIR CAPABILITY FOR MARITIME PATROL (ALBATROSS-TYPE AIRCRAFT) AND FOR SHIPBOARD OPERATIONS (SMALL HELICOPTER FOR SEARCH). THEY HAVE NO SUCH AIRCRAFT AT THE PRESENT TIME BUT HAVE FOUR FIXED WING PILOTS QUALIFIED IN SMALL CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND WITHIN A MONTH, TWO COLNAV PILOTS WILL COMPLETE HELICOPTER TRAINING IN ARGENTINA. COLOMBIA AIR FORCE PLANS NOW INCLUDE ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL T/A-37'S. CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR THE UTILIZATION OF THESE A/C FOR COASTAL PATROL.

D. TRAINING PROGRAMS WOULD NEED TO BE DEVELOPED TO COINCIDE WITH THE HARDWARD ACQUISITION.

E. BASE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPLY POINTS NOW EXIST ON THE ATLANTIC COAST. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BASES AND SUPPLY POINTS WOULD INCLUDE TURBO AND SAN ANDRES ISLAND ON THE ATLANTIC COAST AND BUENAVENTURA, BAHIA SOLANO, AND TUMACO ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

F. AN INCREASE IN PERSONNEL FORCE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED

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ALONG WITH THEIR NEW MISSION AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING OF OLDER SHIPS COUPLED WITH A REPLACEMTN PLAN DIRECTED TOWARD THE NEW MISSION.

3. COLNAV GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THIS NEW MISSION WOULD AUGMENT THE OVERALL COLOMBIAN MILITARY PLANS OF DEFENSE AGAINST FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ENEMIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

4. SEPCIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENT DESIRED BY THE JOINT STUDY ARE:
A. DEVELOPMENT OF A MISSION STATEMENT.
B. DEVELOPMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.
C. OPERATING PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS COMMAND AND CONTROL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARTICIPATING SERVICES.
D. DEVELOPMENT OF HARDWARD ACQUISITION PLANS FOR COMMUNICATIONS/
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COMMAND CONTROL EQUIPMENT, SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT.
E. DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAINING PLAN.
F. DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDED BASES AND SUPPLY POINTS.
G. DEVELOPMENT OF A PERSONNEL FORCE STRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE MISSION.

5. THE COLNAV PLANS WILL EVENTURALLY FILL A VOID AT SEA WHICH IS NOW WIDE OPEN TO SMUGGLERS OF CONTRABAND AND DRUG TRAFFIC. THE FIRST AND IMMEDIATE HELP TO U.S. OBJECTIVES WOULD BE A COMMUNICATION NET WHICH WOULD BRING TOGETHER THE COLOMBIAN NAVY AND MARINE CORPS WITH COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS UNITS AND COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE UNITS WHEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR COASTAL PATROL. ACQUISITION OF PATROL GUN BOATS AND AIRCRAFT SHOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO PROVIDE FOR EFFICIENT PATROL OF THE AREA OUTSIDE OF 12 MILES (CUSTOM RESPONSIBILITY) TO THE 200 MILE LIMITE. THESE PLANS WOULD REVITALIZE THE COLNAV AND SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE ITS CAPABILITY FOR COASTAL SURVEILLANCE, NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AND PROTECTION OF THE SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND APPROACHES TO THE PANAMA CANAL.
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